

# **EXHIBIT A**

to

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.312(a)**

(U.S. Application No. 09/899,776)

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR  
CONTINUATION-IN-PART PATENT APPLICATION

As below-named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to our names, we believe we are the original, first and sole inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled CARBON FIBER ELECTRICAL CONTACTS FORMED OR COMPOSITE CARBON FIBER MATERIAL, the specification of which is attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, and that we believe a patent on the claimed subject matter is not barred under any provisions of Title 35, United States Codes §102; that this application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in our earlier-filed pending application, Serial No. 09/498,872, filed February 7, 2000, and is a continuation in part thereof;

That, as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said earlier application, we do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States before our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to said earlier application, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to said earlier application; that said common subject matter has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate before the date of said earlier application in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by us or our legal representatives assigns more than twelve months prior to said application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said common subject matter has been filed by us or our representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States.

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That, as to the subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application Serial No. 09/498,872 filed February 7, 2000, we do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to the date of this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date of this application; and that said subject matter which is not common to said earlier application has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to the date of this application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention has been filed by us or our representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) including material information that occurred between the filing date of February 7, 2000 and the filing date of this application.

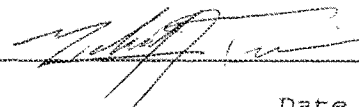
And we hereby appoint JAY H. MAIOLI, Reg. No. 27,213, whose post office address is Cooper & Dunham, 1185 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, or his duly appointed associates, our attorney, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to file continuation and divisional applications thereof, to receive the Letters Patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, and specify that communications about the application are to be directed to the following correspondence address:

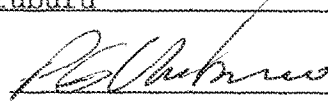
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Jay H. Maioli  
c/o COOPER & DUNHAM  
1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036

and that all telephone calls be directed to Jay H. Maioli  
(212) 278-0400.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 in the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

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